

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 DPW-01 AID-05 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 NEA-09 /093 W

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R 201250Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9084

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR, VT, VS, VN

SUBJECT: STRONG VATICAN EDITORIAL ON VIETNAM

PARIS FOR JEC

1. UNOFFICIAL VATICAN WEEKLY "OSSERVATORE DELLA DOMENICA"  
CARRIED EDITORIAL JAN. 19 ENTITLED "VIETNAM AND PEACE" BY ITS  
EDITOR FEDERICO ALESSANDRINI, WHO ALSO SERVES AS VATICAN'S PRESS  
SPOKESMAN. IN DISCURSIVE ARTICLE ON PRESENT DETERIORATING SITUA-  
TION IN VIETNAM WHERE TWO YEAR OLD PARIS PEACE AGREEMENT IS BEING  
GRAVELY VIOLATED, ALESSANDRINI CONCLUDES THAT WHILE SAIGON REGIME  
MAY BE SOMEWHAT UNPOPULAR AND EVEN CORRUPT, REGIME IN HANOI IS  
MUCH WORSE. HE WRITES, "AN EXTREMELY INTENSE PROPAGANDA,  
POSSIBLE MORE EFFECTIVE THAN PHYSICAL WEAPONS, HAS CREATED A BIT  
EVERYWHERE A WIDESPREAD MENTALITY WHICH IS AS HOSTILE TO THE SAIGON  
GOVERNMENT, PRESENTED NOT ONLY BY COMMUNIST SOURCES AS DICTATORIAL  
AND TYRANNICAL, AS IT IS STRANGELY INDULGENT TO THE HANOI REGIME,  
DICTATORIAL BY DEFINITION AND NATURE . . . THE SYSTEM EXISTING  
IN SAIGON AND PRESIDENT THIEU PERSONALLY MAY NOT BE GREATLY  
LIKED. THE CLIMATE OF CORRUPTION WHICH UNFORTUNATELY SPREADS AT  
THE MARGIN OF THIS AND ALL WARS MAY BE OPPRESSIVE. BUT IT IS  
ALSO TRUE THAT THIS DISSENT CAN BE PUBLICLY MANIFESTED TO STATE  
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ITS ARGUMENTS, EXPRESS ITSELF IN PARLIAMENT, WHILE NOTHING OF

THE KIND IS POSSIBLE IN THE NORTH." THE WRITER CONCLUDES THAT  
"IF SOME SOUTH VIETNAMESE CIRCLES DISLIKE THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE  
REGIME, THE HANOI REGIME IS LIKED FAR LESS AND IS REJECTED EVEN  
AT THE COST OF VERY HARD SACRIFICES AND WITH UNCERTAIN PROSPECTS."

2. ALESSANDRINI SHARPLY DEBUNKS PROPAGANDA ARGUMENTS THAT THE  
CONFLICTS IN SOUTH VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA ARE DOMESTIC WARS. IN  
REALITY THEY ARE, HE STATES, LED BY HANOI WHICH INFILTRATES ITS  
TROOPS AND SUPPLIES INTO THESE TWO COUNTRIES THROUGH A NETWORK  
OF JUNGLE TRAILS. SAIGON, ON OTHER HAND, HAS, CONTRARY TO ALL  
EARLIER EXPECTATIONS, MANAGED TO MAINTAIN ITS ACTIVE MILITARY  
RESISTANCE FOR TWO YEARS WITHOUT DIRECT AMERICAN MILITARY  
INVOLVEMENT.

3. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH ALESSANDRINI WRITES IN "OSSERVATORE DELLA  
DOMENICA" ON "HIS OWN AUTHORITY," HE CAN BE CONSIDERED TO HEW  
CLOSELY TO OFFICIAL VATICAN POLICIES. IN THIS LIGHT, ARTICLE  
IS INTERESTING AS STRONGEST VATICAN CRITICISM OF HANOI IN RECENT  
YEARS. VOLPE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, PROPAGANDA, POLITICAL SITUATION, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, FORM OF GOVERNMENT  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** MorefiRH  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Reference:** n/a  
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**Review Authority:** MorefiRH  
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**Subject:** STRONG VATICAN EDITORIAL ON VIETNAM PARIS FOR JEC  
**TAGS:** PFOR, VT, VS, VN, OSSERVATORE DELLA DOMENICA  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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